



Ellicott Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 2 - July 2010

Draft Conservation Plan Now Available!

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) for Ellicott Slough NWR is available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/ellicott> or email us at: fw8plancomments@fws.gov to request a printed copy or a compact disc. Printed copies are also available for viewing at:

San Francisco Bay NWR Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, CA 94536

Watsonville Main Public Library
275 Main Street, Suite 100
Watsonville, CA 95076

Refuge Management Alternatives Developed

This is the second update for the Ellicott Slough National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process. These updates are sent to interested parties when the Refuge has completed significant benchmarks. Based on public scoping comments and recommendations from stakeholders, Refuge staff has developed three alternatives for managing the Refuge over the next 15 years. These alternatives are summarized in this update and described in detail in the draft CCP/EA.

If you have any questions or would like more information, you may contact me at (510) 792-0222 x130 or the Refuge Planner, Sandy Osborn, via email at fw8plancomments@fws.gov. Thank you very much for your continued interest in this process!

Diane Kodama
Refuge Manager

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, W-1832
Sacramento, California 95825

Address correction requested

We Would Like to Hear From You!

The Draft CCP/EA for the Ellicott Slough NWR is available for public review and comment until Monday, August 30, 2010.

Comments may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

Sandy Osborn, Refuge Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
E-mail: fwsplancomments@fws.gov
FAX: (916) 414-6497

Please indicate "Ellicott Slough CCP" in the subject line.

If you did not receive this newsletter through the mail and would like to be on our mailing list, please contact us. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list or are receiving multiple copies of these notices, please let us know.

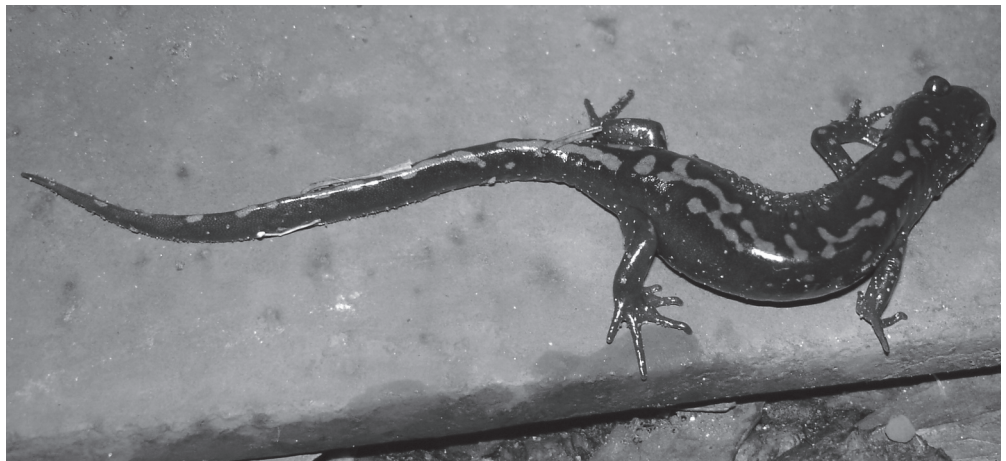
Highlights of the Refuge Management Alternatives

The draft environmental assessment (EA) for the CCP analyzes three alternatives for managing the Refuge. Under **Alternative A** (No Action Alternative), Refuge management would continue unchanged. The Refuge would remain closed to the public.

Alternative B (Preferred Alternative) includes standardizing the monitoring and surveying program for plant and animal species; planning for and improving seasonal pond habitat for amphibians; identifying buffer and corridor habitat for potential boundary expansion and acquisition; developing weed management and prevention/early detection plans; assessing contaminants and disease; climate change modeling; identifying

additional breeding and over-summering habitat for potential boundary expansion and acquisition; opening the Harkins Slough Unit to some wildlife-dependent recreation such as wildlife observation and photography; developing a trail system; expanding on-site environmental restoration education and outreach with local schools; and developing in-class environmental education in collaboration with partners.

Alternative C includes all actions in Alternative B, plus expanding natural resource monitoring and surveying; expanding control of additional priority invasive plants and animals; and expanding opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.

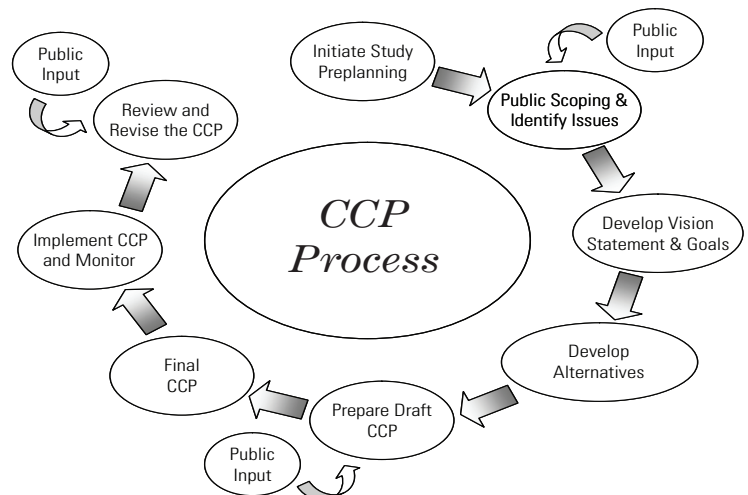


Santa Cruz long-toed salamander

Photo: Leah Oscar

An Update on the Refuge's CCP Process

Since we distributed *Planning Update #1*, the CCP planning team has developed and analyzed draft alternatives for managing Ellicott Slough NWR. The results of this analysis are available in the draft CCP/EA which is now available for public review.



Robust spineflower

Photo: Sandra Baron